Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A postage indicium fraud detection method for permitting the automated processing of void mail pieces for which accounting has not been affected bearing a ~~unique~~ designated indicium, comprising:

for cases where accounting for postage on a mail piece has not been affected, printing a first ~~unique~~ designated indicium on [[a]] the mail piece or a label to be applied to [[a]] the mail piece, the first ~~unique~~ designated indicium comprising at least one of a ~~unique~~ designated facing identification marking (FIM) ~~different~~ having a plurality of vertical bars arranged differently from FIM A, FIM B, and FIM C markings, and a ~~unique~~ designated postal numeric encoding technique (POSTNET) barcode that comprises a plurality of vertical bars, which designated POSTNET barcode does not correspond to an actual zip code, which first ~~unique~~ designated indicium identifies the mail piece as being a void mail piece;

providing automated mail handling equipment that reads FIM markings and POSTNET barcodes, and storing data concerning the designated facing identification marking and the designated POSTNET barcode; and

using the automated mail handling equipment to read the first designated indicium on the mail piece and compare it to the stored data and sort the void mail piece bearing the first designated indicia from mail pieces not bearing the first designated indicia ~~and is sorted from mail pieces not bearing the unique indicium by automated mail handling equipment~~.

2 - 3   (Canceled)

4.   (Currently amended) The postage indicium fraud detection method of claim 1, wherein an additional indicium comprising a ~~unique~~ designated postal alpha numeric encoding

technology barcode is printed onto the mail piece or label for the mail piece, which ~~unique~~ <u>designated</u> postal alpha numeric encoding technology barcode is used to at least one of identify <u>a</u> [[the]] sender of the void mail piece, <u>a</u> [[the]] time of the void mail handling, and collect statistics on attempts to mail void mail pieces by the sender.

5.   (Currently amended) A postage indicium fraud detection method for permitting the automated processing of void mail pieces <u>for which accounting has not been affected</u> bearing a first ~~unique~~ <u>designated</u> indicium using existing automated mail handling equipment, comprising:

<u>for cases where accounting for postage on a mail piece has not been affected,</u> printing a first ~~unique~~ <u>designated</u> indicium on [[a]] <u>the</u> mail piece or a label to be applied to [[a]] <u>the</u> mail piece, the first ~~unique~~ <u>designated</u> indicium comprising at least one of a ~~unique~~ <u>designated</u> facing identification marking (FIM) ~~different~~ <u>having a plurality of vertical bars arranged differently from a valid FIM marking comprising</u> FIM A, FIM B, and FIM C <u>markings</u>, and a ~~unique~~ <u>designated</u> postal numeric encoding technique (POSTNET) barcode <u>that comprises a plurality of vertical bars, which designated POSTNET barcode is different from a valid POSTNET barcode</u> that ~~does not correspond~~ <u>corresponds</u> to an actual zip code, which first ~~unique~~ <u>designated</u> indicium identifies the mail piece as being a void mail piece [[and]] <u>which</u> is <u>to be</u> sorted from mail pieces not bearing the ~~unique~~ <u>designated</u> indicium ~~by automated mail handling equipment~~;

<u>providing automated mail handling equipment that reads FIM marking and POSTNET barcodes, and storing data that identifies the valid FIM marking and the valid POSTNET barcodes;</u> and

processing the void mail piece bearing the first ~~unique~~ <u>designated</u> indicium with the automated mail handling equipment ~~to identify and segregate~~ <u>by using the automated mail handling equipment to read the FIM marking or POSTNET barcode and compare it to the stored data and if the read FIM marking or POSTNET barcode are not valid, identifying such mail piece as being a void mail piece, and segregating</u> the void mail piece from other non-void mail pieces.

6 - 7   (Canceled)

8.   (Currently amended) The postage indicium fraud detection method of claim 5, further comprising printing a second ~~unique~~ designated indicia, comprising a postal alpha numeric encoding technology barcode which is used by automated mail handling equipment to identify a [[the]] sender of the void mail piece, a [[the]] time of the void mail handling, and collect statistics on attempts to mail void mail pieces by the sender.

9.   (Currently amended) A postage indicium fraud detection method for permitting the automated processing and segregation of void mail pieces bearing a first ~~unique~~ designated indicium from non-void mail pieces not bearing the first ~~unique~~ designated indicium for which accounting has not been affected, comprising:

providing authorizing client software ~~which permits~~ for a user to print information based indicia postage onto a mail piece or a label for a mail piece;

~~having the user enter~~ entering a valid delivery address, ~~select~~ and selecting at least one of a type of mail piece, mail class, attributes, and special services by the user;

~~having the user verify and accept~~ verifying and accepting the address and any modifications thereto;

~~having the user select~~ selecting between printing a sample void information based indicia postage and a non-void information based postage indicia;

~~having the user print~~ printing a sample void information based postage indicia for void mail pieces and printing non-void information based postage indicia for non-void mail pieces, wherein the void mail piece or [[a]] the label therefore is printed with a first ~~unique~~ designated indicium comprising at least one of a ~~unique~~ designated facing identification marking (FIM) ~~different~~ having a plurality of vertical bars arranged differently from FIM A, FIM B, and FIM C markings, and a ~~unique~~ designated postal numeric encoding technique (POSTNET) barcode that comprises a plurality of vertical bars, which designated POSTNET barcode does not correspond

to an actual zip code, which first ~~unique~~ designated indicium identifies the mail piece as a void mail piece; and

providing automated mail handling equipment, and storing data that identifies the designated FIM marking and the designated POSTNET barcode as corresponding to a void mail piece, which automated mail handling equipment is adapted to identify the first designated indicium on the mail piece and compare it to the stored data and segregate the void information based postage indicia bearing mail pieces from non-void information based postage indicia bearing mail pieces.

10. (Currently amended) The postage indicium fraud detection method of claim 9, further comprising printing a ~~unique~~ postal alpha numeric encoding technology barcode onto the mail piece or label therefor which is used by automated mail handling equipment to at least one of identify a [[the]] sender of the void mail piece, a [[the]] time of the void mail handling, and collect statistics on attempts to mail void mail pieces by the sender.

11. (Currently amended) A postage indicium fraud detection method for permitting the automated processing, identification, and segregation of void mail pieces for which accounting has not been affected bearing a first ~~unique~~ designated indicium, comprising:

~~providing automated mail handling equipment which is adapted to sort~~ sorting mail based on indicia placed on mail pieces using automated mail handling equipment; [[and]]

~~providing client software for printing~~ using client software to print a first ~~unique~~ designated indicium on a mail piece or a label to be applied to a mail piece, the first ~~unique~~ designated indicium comprising at least one of a unique facing identification marking (FIM) ~~different~~ having a plurality of vertical bars arranged differently from FIM A, FIM B, and FIM C markings, and a ~~unique~~ designated postal numeric encoding technique (POSTNET) barcode that comprises a plurality of vertical bars, which designated POSTNET barcode does not correspond to an actual zip code[[;]]; and

comparing the ~~which~~ first ~~unique~~ designated indicium ~~identifies~~ on the mail piece with the stored data and using the automated mail handling equipment to segregate mail pieces bearing the first designated indicium ~~as being a void mail piece and is sorted~~ from mail pieces not bearing the ~~unique~~ designated indicium ~~by automated mail handling equipment~~.

12.   (Currently amended) The postage indicium fraud detection method of claim 11, wherein the client software is adapted to generate a ~~unique~~ postal alpha numeric encoding technology barcode, which when printed on a mail piece or label therefor is used by automated mail handling equipment to at least one of identify a [[the]] sender of the void mail piece, a [[the]] time of the void mail handling, and collect statistics on attempts to mail void mail pieces by the sender.